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### Presentation of balustrade and chimney model

**Citation for published version:**

Theodossopoulos, D, *Presentation of balustrade and chimney model: Property repair & maintenance evening event, ESPC Edinburgh, 2015*, Exhibition.

**Link:**

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

**Document Version:**

Peer reviewed version

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# CONSERVATION OF GEORGIAN BALUSTRADES

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EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE



Register House  
Robert Adam, 1774-89



Royal Terrace  
WH Playfair 1821-60



William Street  
Robert Brown 1819-24

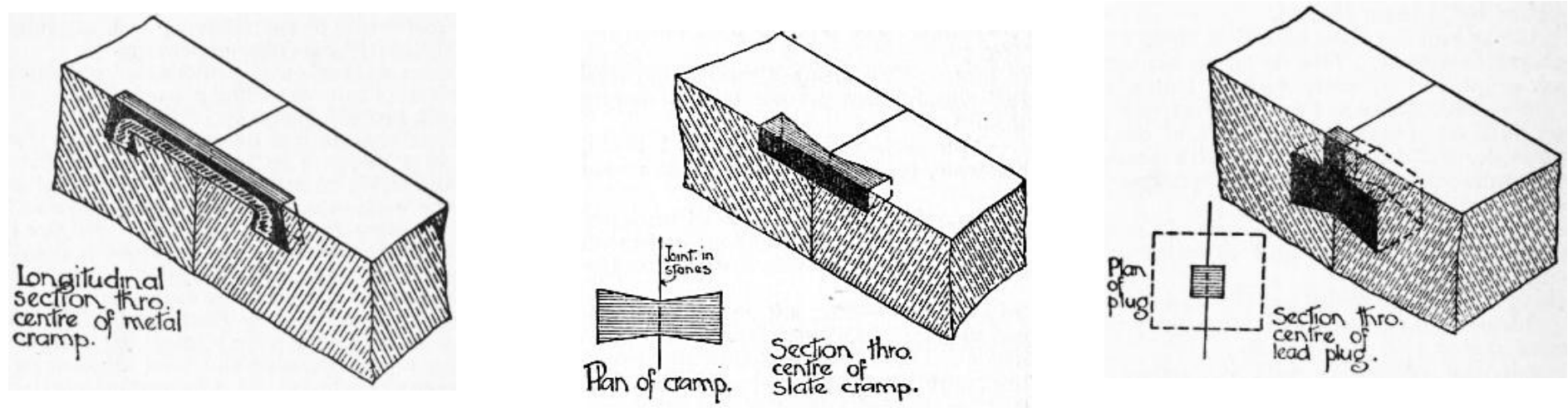


Grosvenor Crescent  
John Chesser 1869-71



13 Carlton Terrace  
WH Playfair designed, 1821-25

Coronation of the wallheads in many terraced houses, “sealing” visually the edge of a roof with an elegant end to the flashing of the coverings and the gutter. Often the signature of an architect, they are characterised by how densely they are arranged between the piers. Victorian cornices are stronger and bolder than earlier Georgian.



## Good practice

- The balusters sit between the piers and the copes by gravity
- Coping: never aligned with fore edge of balusters, but placed centrally
- Wallplate: changes location depending how rafters/ ceiling ties were built
- Lead flashing: can fold around blocking course like an apron, to include drop of cornice OR fix at the back of the blocking course
- Lead sheets used to adjust tolerances and protect pin from corrosion.
- Width of blocking course: enough to hold baluster and align to coping
- Inner wallhead: inner face of blocking course is undressed; bulk of stone adds weight to hold the projecting cantilever of the cornice

## Typical defects

- Directly from their exposure (rain, West wind) and assembly:
- Key issues: stability (gravity), water, durability of connections, repairs
  - Lack of maintenance, poorly considered repair
  - Degradation of materials, e.g. delamination of bulb due to bedding of stone
  - Some balusters were rendered in cement and painted over

Indirectly from the roof, gutter or cornice

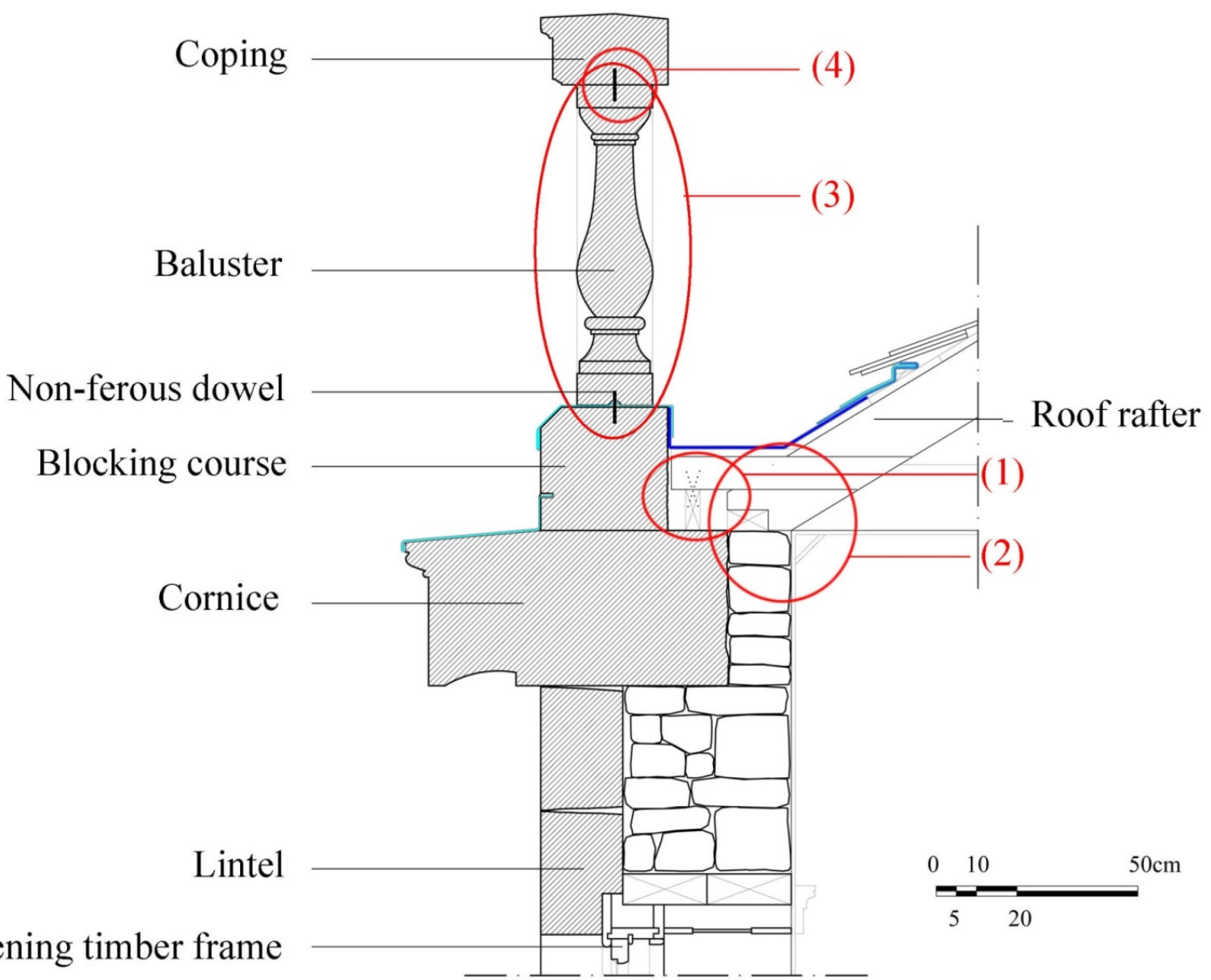
- Blocked gutters and rain goods can let water through the stone blocks
- Rafter from roof: does (should) not apply much movement
- Gutter sheds rainwater to downpipe through a pipe within the cornice
- Cornice replacement can cause instability and is a delicate operation

## Repairs and conservation

Heads of balusters to be replaced???

- No – create a further weak area that needs control and maintenance
- Yes – save material

New pieces fixed with drop dowels to the coping, and with dowels to the original part. New ones will be turned from a template of the original ones. Variation of joints: lead joggle or U-shaped iron clamp



ROOF DETAIL - SECTION



14-16 Carlton Street (James Milne 1826), repairs by John Hope, 2012

